



# LOS ANGELES COUNTY COMMISSION FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

*Celebrating 25 Years of Advocacy & Achievement*

## COMMISSIONERS

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Sandra Rudnick  
Adelina Sorkin, LCSW/ACSW  
Martha Trevino Powell  
Dr. Harriette F. Williams

## APPROVED MINUTES

The General Meeting of the Commission for Children and Families was held on Monday, **March 1, 2010**, in Room 739 of the Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration, 500 West Temple Street, Los Angeles. **Please note that these minutes are intended as a summary and not as a verbatim accounting or transcription of events at this meeting.**

### COMMISSIONERS PRESENT (Quorum Established)

Patricia Curry	Rev. Cecil L. Murray
Carol O. Biondi	Steven M. Olivas, Esq.
Ann Franzen	Stacey Savelle
Susan F. Friedman	Adelina Sorkin, LCSW/ACSW
Helen A. Kleinberg	Martha Trevino Powell
Dr. La-Doris McClanely	Dr. Harriette F. Williams

### COMMISSIONERS ABSENT (Excused/Unexcused)

Dr. Maria Rochart	Sandra Rudnick
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#### **I. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Curry at 10:03 a.m.

#### **II. INTRODUCTIONS**

Self introductions were made.

#### **III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

- **March 1, 2010**

#### **Action Taken:**

On motion of Commissioner Trevino Powell, seconded by Commissioner Williams, the agenda for March 1, 2010, was unanimously approved.

#### **IV. CHAIR'S REPORT**

Chair Curry reported the following:

- County policy now requires County Commissioners to undergo Live Scan background investigations.
- The March 2, 2010, Board of Supervisors' agenda will contain a motion by Supervisor Antonovich to establish a priority for youth "Self-Sufficiency." Several advocates will attend the meeting to address the Board. There will also be two joint motions by Supervisors Yaroslavsky and Antonovich and a motion by Supervisor Ridley-Thomas, regarding the Probation Department.

#### **Action Taken:**

Chair Curry's verbal report was received and filed.

#### **V. PRESENTATIONS**

##### **• Overview of the KinGAP Program Ron Burke, DCFS**

Mr. Burke provided an overview of the Kinship Guardianship Assistance Payment (KinGAP) Program and responded to questions posed by the Commission.

Ms. Barbara Barabino, DCFS, responded to questions posed by the Commission and reported the following:

- DCFS has two KinGAP Resource Centers (KinGAP Resource Center North and KinGAP Resource Center South). Other Centers are in the process of being developed.
- KinGAP youth may contact the Kinship Resource Center or the Youth Development Services Division Headquarters to get information on the ILP (Independent Living Program).
- There are outside agencies that assist in KinGAP process, such as the Children's Law Center and the Alliance for Children's Rights.

Copies of the following documents relative to KinGAP were discussed and distributed (copies on file):

- [DCFS-5555 form, "Kinship Guardianship Assistance Payment Fact Sheet"](#)
- ["Kinship Guardianship Assistance Payment \(KinGAP\) Fact Sheet"](#)
- ["KinGAP Independent Living Program \(ILP\) Fact Sheet"](#)
- [DCFS-5620 form, "Comparison of Legal and Financial Benefits: Adoption, Legal Guardianship and Planned Permanent Living Arrangement"](#)

**Action Taken:**

The Commission received and filed the KinGAP update report from DCFS ([copies on file](#)), and requested that DCFS (Kinship Support Division) reports back to the Commission on the number of failed Guardianships that return to DCFS jurisdiction through 388 petitions and the percentage of KinGAP youth receiving ILP funding.

- **Kinship Foster Care**

**Andrew Bridge, Director  
Child Welfare Initiative**

Mr. Bridge reported that in October 2008, the Child Welfare Initiative conducted a yearlong review of new programs, policy changes, and best practices to improve outcomes and conditions for at-risk youth and families involved with child welfare systems. The Initiative developed an Action Plan to use limited philanthropic dollars to catalyze reforms in child welfare to achieve independent financial sustainability. An Advisory Group was organized to develop the Action Plan, comprised of State Department of Social Services Director John Wagner, Judge Michael Nash, DCFS Director Trish Ploehn, Grandparents as Parents (GAP), the Alliance for Children's Rights, the Children's Law Center, and other Community agency representatives. The Action Plan focused on two areas: Kinship Care and Transition Age Youth (TAY).

He highlighted the following projects resulting from the Child Welfare Initiative:

- The establishment of a KinCare Center at the Edmund D. Edelman Children's Court in Monterey Park, CA, which is an extension of HR6893 and AB12 focusing on the Navigator Provisions of those bills.
- The Caroline Severance Manor, an 18-unit housing development funded by MHSA funds, in the Pico-Union area; a first for the State of California anticipated to be operational in August 2011.
- The expansion of medical and mental health care for Kinship Care youth, with assistance from LAC-USC.
- The development of KinCare groups in the Watts-Willowbrook area.
- The collaboration with several school groups, including the Pomona Unified School District.

Chair Curry reported that Mr. Bridge will return the following month to provide further updates on the Child Welfare Initiative's work on Kinship Care.

**Action Taken:**

The Commission received and filed the Child Welfare Initiative verbal report by Mr. Bridge and a copy of a letter from Mr. Bridge dated February 26, 2010.

**VI. DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Director Trish Ploehn, DCFS, reported the following:

- DCFS' budget will be significantly impacted due to a ruling by the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals involving a case of the Alliance for Children Group Homes and the State of California. The lawsuit is set at \$70 million, and is expected to affect reinvestment funding for DCFS.
- This week is "Family Reunification Week." Approximately 100 individuals, including the Mexican consulate, will receive scrolls at the Board of Supervisors' meeting on March 2, 2010, and many Countywide events will be held celebrating Family Reunification Week.

Director Ploehn provided information on the P3 (Permanent Placement Partners) Program ([copies on file](#)).

**Action Taken:**

Director Ploehn's verbal report was received and filed.

**VII. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Marjorie Shelvy, Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles, and Brenda Dabney, Children's Law Center of LA, addressed the Commission.

**VIII. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

There were none.

**IX. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned by Chair Curry at 11:35 a.m.